

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Original) An echo canceller comprising:  
an echo replica forming means for forming an echo replica signal from a far-end input signal by using an adaptive filter including a filter section and a coefficient update section;  
an echo cancellation means for removing an echo component in a near-end input signal by subtracting the echo replica signal from the near-end input signal; and  
an offset removal means for removing an offset component produced under an effect of low frequencies from the filter coefficient of the adaptive filter.
2. (Original) The echo canceller according to Claim 1, wherein the offset removal means calculates a mean value of the filter coefficient of a tap length at a predetermined timing as an offset component and removes the offset component from the filter coefficient of the adaptive filter.
3. (Original) The echo canceller according to Claim 1, wherein the offset removal means calculates a mean value of the filter coefficients in a past predetermined period as an offset component and removes the offset component from the filter coefficient of the adaptive filter.
4. (Original) The echo canceller according to Claim 2, wherein the offset removal means removes the offset component once in a predetermined period.
5. (Original) The echo canceller according to Claim 1, further comprising a frequency component detection means for detecting whether either or both of the far-end input signal and the near-end input signal contain a low-frequency component lower than a predetermined frequency, wherein the offset removal means removes the offset component when the frequency component detection means detects that a low-frequency component is contained.

6. (Original) The echo canceller according to Claim 5, wherein the frequency component detection means varies the predetermined frequency in accordance with a set value of the tap length of the adaptive filter.
7. (New) The echo canceller according to claim 3, wherein the offset removal means removes the offset component once in a predetermined period.